

13605 Jamieson Place
Germantown, MD 20874-1475
October 4, 1999

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FDA/Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket No. 97N-0074

FDA:

In response to the Council on Food Safety's call for public input on ways to reduce foodborne illness, I would like to suggest a ban on the forced molting of laying hens. Withdrawal of food weakens hens' immune systems, making them more susceptible to infections including Salmonella and Campylobacter, which are passed on to consumers. Desperate birds often eat their waste-infested litter or the contaminated feathers of other birds, as published in *Food Chemical News* (26 July 1999). Please take a step to stop the epidemic of foodborne pathogens infecting and taking the lives of American consumers by placing a ban on forced molting.

Thank you,

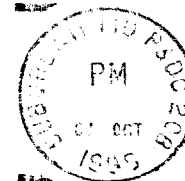
Erin J. Marcus

Judith W. Marcus

97N-0074

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